

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-18 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 7-12 are cancelled in this reply. Therefore, claims 1-6 and 13-18 are pending. Claims 1, 3 and 5 are independent.

§ 103 REJECTION – KOBORI, YAMAMOTO

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kobori (U.S. Patent 5,109,281) and Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,049,604). *See Office Action, Items 3 and 4.* The rejection with respect to claims 8, 10 and 12 is rendered moot. With respect to claims 1, 3, 5 and 13-18, Applicant respectfully traverses.

Independent claim 1 recites, in part “wherein the detecting step includes detecting edges in the face pattern and binarizing the original image signal corresponding to the face pattern.” Claim 1 also recites, in part “performing a pattern matching process for each face pattern represented by said detected face candidate region using the binarized face candidate region.” These features allow the speed of the pattern matching process to be increased since the amount of face candidate region is decreased.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Kobori nor Yamamoto teach or suggest at least the above recited features. The Examiner alleges that Kobori discloses detecting face information and relies upon Figure 3 and Column 4, lines 50-51. It is noted that Kobori is entirely silent regarding detecting edges in the face pattern and also is silent regarding binarizing the original image signal. Yamamoto is not relied upon to correct for at least these deficiencies of Kobori.

Further, the Examiner admits that Kobori does not teach a pattern matching process. It naturally follows then that Kobori cannot teach or suggest the feature of performing a pattern matching process using the binarized face candidate region as recited. Yamamoto is also silent regarding whether the pattern matching process is performed using the binarized face candidate region. Thus, neither Kobori no Yamamoto teaches this feature.

Because neither Kobori nor Yamamoto teaches the above recited features individually, the combination of Kobori and Yamamoto also cannot teach or suggest at least the above recited features. Therefore, independent claim 1 is distinguishable over the combination of Kobori and Yamamoto.

Independent claim 3 recites, in part, "wherein said detecting means includes edge detecting means for detecting edges in the face pattern and includes binarization means for binarizing the original image signal corresponding to the face pattern" and "pattern matching means for performing

a pattern matching process for each face pattern ... using the binarized candidate region output from said binarization means.” As amply demonstrated above, it is clear that neither Kobori nor Yamaguchi teaches or suggests the above recited features. Therefore, independent claim 3 is also distinguishable over the combination of Kobori and Yamamoto.

Independent claim 5 recites, in part “wherein the detecting step includes detecting edges in the face pattern and binarizing the original image signal corresponding to the face pattern” and “performing a pattern matching process for each face pattern ... using the binarized face candidate region.” Again, it is clear that claim 5 is distinguishable over the combination of Kobori and Yamamoto.

Claims 13-18 depend from independent claims 1, 3 and 5 directly or indirectly. Then, for at least due to the dependency thereon, these dependent claims are also distinguishable over the combination of Kobori and Yamamoto.

Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, and 12-18 based on Kobori and Yamamoto be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – KOBORI, YAMAMOTO, HORII

Claims 2, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kobori and Yamamoto, and further in view of Horii

(U.S. Patent 5,850,463). *See Office Action, Item 5.* Applicant respectfully traverses.

It is noted that claims 2, 4 and 6 dependent form independent claims 1, 3, and 5, respectively. It is amply demonstrated above that claims 1, 3 and 5 are distinguishable over the combination of Kobori and Yamamoto. Kobori is not relied upon to correct for at least the above-noted deficiencies of Kobori and Yamamoto. Therefore, claims 1, 3 and 5 are also distinguishable over the combination of Kobori, Yamamoto and Horii. Then, for at least due to the dependency thereon, claims 2, 4 and 6 are also distinguishable over the combination of Kobori, Yamamoto and Horii.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2, 4 and 6 based on Kobori, Yamamoto and Horii be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – KOBORI, YAMAMOTO, NAKAMURA

Claims 7, 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kobori and Yamamoto, and further in view of Nakamura et al. (5,278,921). *See Office Action, Item 6.* These claims are cancelled, and therefore the rejection has been rendered moot.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 7, 9 and 11 based on Kobori, Yamamoto and Nakamura be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

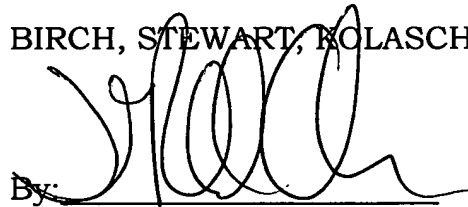
All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a two (2) months extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

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